

I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut Trail Rides Association which is an equine family oriented trail riding club that makes recreational use of state lands. We currently have a membership of 190 members and are one of the oldest riding clubs in Connecticut having been established in 1940. We have only just been made aware of two pending bills late last evening and would like to go on record concerning them. They are **SJ36** and **HB5619**

We **SUPPORT: SJ 36** Which would place a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot to better protect public lands with agricultural, conservation, and recreational values by ensuring:

- A public hearing before any giveaway, sale, swap, or change of use;
- Compensation for a loss of public lands would equal or exceed the values being lost in the region where they would be lost;
- A 2/3 majority vote; and
- A separate bill for each proposed giveaway, sale, swap, or change of use

We strongly support this bill!

OPPOSE: The second bill of interest to us is GAE Public Hearing is the 2016 Conveyance Act (**HB 5619**). We are opposed to two sections of the bill, in particular:

Section 8. Would transfer 60+ acres of CT DEEP waterfront property to the town of Groton for free. This land and accompanying buildings (formerly the Mystic Education Center/Oral School) has significant conservation values and is a valuable coastal property as well.

Section 5. Requests a report that 1) evaluates state property that is zoned for residential use and authorized to contain commercial structures, and 2) recommends the expedited transfer of such properties. We oppose this section because it is unclear what properties this might make vulnerable to being given away.

We strongly oppose this bill.